

OLL 85-3583
5 Nov 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing House Foreign Affairs Committee Staffers on
Nicaraguan Resistance

25X1 1. On 5 November 1985, at 1000 hours, House Foreign
25X1 Affairs Committee Staffers George Ingram and Maryann Chambers
were briefed on the civil and armed resistance in Nicaragua in
Room 2255, Rayburn House Office Building.

2. The following Agency personnel were present:

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25X1 3. Mr. Ingram and Ms. Chambers were interested in a
description of (1) the players in the resistance, (2) the
players' relationships to each other, and (3) an assessment of
their performance. Mr. Ingram and Mrs. Chambers also requested
an analysis of the structure and effectiveness of the United
Nicaraguan Oppositon (UNO).

25X1 4. opened the briefing with some general
comments about the status of the opposition in Nicaragua.
Thereafter, briefers spent the most time on the structure of
UNO and the personalities within it. The discussion, which
also focused on other insurgent groups not affiliated with UNO,
emphasized the shifting loyalties among and within Nicaraguan
opposition organizations. Briefers also talked about the
civilian opposition, which, though ineffectual to date, seems
to be coalescing around the church. The emergence of the
Nicaraguan Catholic Church as a possible opposition unifying
force may explain the imposition of the state of emergency by

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25X1 the Sandinista regime. In response to questions, briefers also
25X1 talked about problems facing the opposition, the insurgents'
25X1 human rights record, and the state of the economy. []

5. The briefing lasted an hour and fifteen minutes. []



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